



Key Quotes

A bottle, shoe, and stone-throwing crowd forced the Serb PM to flee the Srebrenica memorial in Bosnia on Saturday (11th July). Aleksandar Vučić has called what happened a **“horrible crime”** and backs EU efforts to improve Kosovo-Serb relations. EU foreign relations chief Federica Mogherini tweeted: **“My solidarity to Vučić, who made the historical choice of being present in Srebrenica.”** Earlier in the day, she issued plea against racism. **“Dividing the peoples of Europe among ‘us’ and ‘them’ will only originate new conflicts”**, she said (euobserver.com, BE, 11/7).

<https://euobserver.com/foreign/129590>

Summary

Juncker “praises” reforms in Serbia

“I have asked support from European Commission president in order for regional stability to be preserved” Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić said after a meeting with Jean Claude Juncker in Brussels on Thursday. When asked about the issues he has discussed with EC president, Vučić has mentioned situation in Western Balkans. He said that economic reforms in Serbia are highly appreciated by Brussels adding that Belgrade has received clear signal that Serbia is welcome to the European Union. Juncker has praised economic reforms in Serbia just as German Chancellor did, Vučić underlined. Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić said that Serbia is stability factor in the Western Balkans. He also said that Serbia is positioned between Europe and Russia which is sometimes good and sometimes not (balkaneu.com, GR, 10/7).

- balkaneu.com, GR, 10/7, <http://www.balkaneu.com/juncker-praises-reforms-serbia/>

The importance of the challenges in the Balkans

Angela Merkel's trip to the Balkans shows how much the region is relevant to the current challenges the EU is facing, Reinhard Vesper writes in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (DE, 10/7). The Balkans are both the origin and transit area for many refugees and migrants. For the last 20 years the EU has put itself out for the improvement of the region's situation through political and economic reforms - with little success. The promise of an EU accession did not help. As long as the EU is busy with Greece and struggling to implement the rule of law in Romania and Bulgaria, further enlargement should not be an option. The EU must sorrowfully recognise that it has overestimated itself. Beniamino Pagliaro writing in La Stampa (IT, 10/7) suggests that Angela Merkel's visit to the Balkans, specifically to Serbia, Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina is aimed at reducing the influence of Russia and China in these countries.

- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, DE, 10/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150710/mi/item_256684409.pdf
- La Stampa, IT, 10/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150710/mi/item_256699303.pdf

Bulgaria offers Albania support

“Bulgaria fully supports Montenegro's accession in the European-Atlantic structures” said the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov at a meeting with the President of Montenegro, Filip Vujanović. He applauded the Montenegrin President for the efforts made by the country to join the EU and assured Mr Vujanović that Montenegro could count on Bulgaria's support in the negotiations process. The Bulgarian Prime Minister was explicit that the stability of the Balkans was connected with the European and European-Atlantic integration of the countries in the region (focus-news.net, BG, 10/7). Despite the lively relationships with the Russians and Russia, Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović has steered the country towards the EU (La Stampa, IT, 10/7).

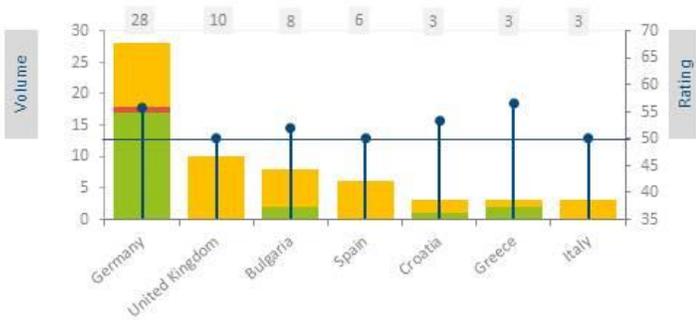
- focus-news.net, BG, 10/7, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/07/10/377706/montenegro-may-count-on-bulgarias-support-in-its-eu-nato-bid-pm.html>
- La Stampa, IT, 10/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20150710/mi/item_256699211.pdf

Charts

ELARG: **Leading Daily Issues**
by volume, favourability & rating



ELARG: **Leading Daily Countries**
by volume, favourability & rating



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ELARG: **Highlights**
by volume, overall rating and percentage favourability

Volume	68 items
Rating	53.1
Favourable %	33.8%
Unfavourable %	1.5%
Neutral %	64.7%

ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Angela Merkel - German Chancellor	41
Aleksandar Vučić - PM Serbia	26
Filip Vujanović - President Montenegro	4
Olaf Scholz - Mayor of Hamburg	4
Nikola Gruevski - PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3
Johannes Hahn - Neighbourhood Policy & Enlarg	3

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